



BULB LOG 28.....13th July 2011



Monotype

All last week I attended an International Printmaking Summer School to hone and expand my printmaking skills. The course that I took was 'Beyond Monotype' where we turn printmaking on its head and instead of making repeatable editions we used printmaking methods to turn out one-off original works.



Monotype with Chine Collé

I will share with you a selection of my course work - some are finished while others could be considered works in progress.

I have stated that I see my gardening as another medium for me to make art and everything I do just reinforces that belief. The more skills you learn and the more you practice them then the more experienced you become and with that comes a greater degree of success. Also along the way you encounter and have to solve problems and all that adds to your future success.



Monotypes with Chine Collé and collage



Monotypes with Chine Collé

These three very different works are all made from the same plate and show how you can make a number of prints from a plate but they are far from identical. The first image pulled is on the left and the final one is on the right



Zings of colour

It is always fun to spend some time in the garden when you have been away for a while - you see it in a different

way than you do when you spend most of every day in it.

All the rainfall we are getting has meant everything has grown well producing plenty of lush and leafy growth so the dominant colour is green. The green tends to fade into the background and it is easy to think that there is no colour around until you observe the scene carefully.

Then you see all the wee 'zings' of colour punctuating the green textures with bright yellow, orange, blue and white.

Primula florindae also provides a delicious scent



Primula florindae



Corydalis mairei



I make no excuse for showing yet more pictures of the **Dactylorhiza** which with all the moisture around just get better and better. I also like the composition here with the line of Dactylorhiza echoed by the group towards the back and the foreground has a nice diagonal line where the purple Acer meets the green Arisaema leaves. The grid of the glass house brings a geometric element into the equation



Cyclamen purpurascens

I saw no signs of *Cyclamen purpurascens* appearing before my course so all this growth has emerged last week showing just how quickly bulbs can respond to favourable conditions. As well as the leaves and beautifully scented

flowers, look for the fat seed pod to the middle left of the picture. It is still not fully ripe and I think that this must be the longest gestation of any bulbous plant that I can think of as it takes around a year from the flower being fertilised before the seeds are fully formed and shed.



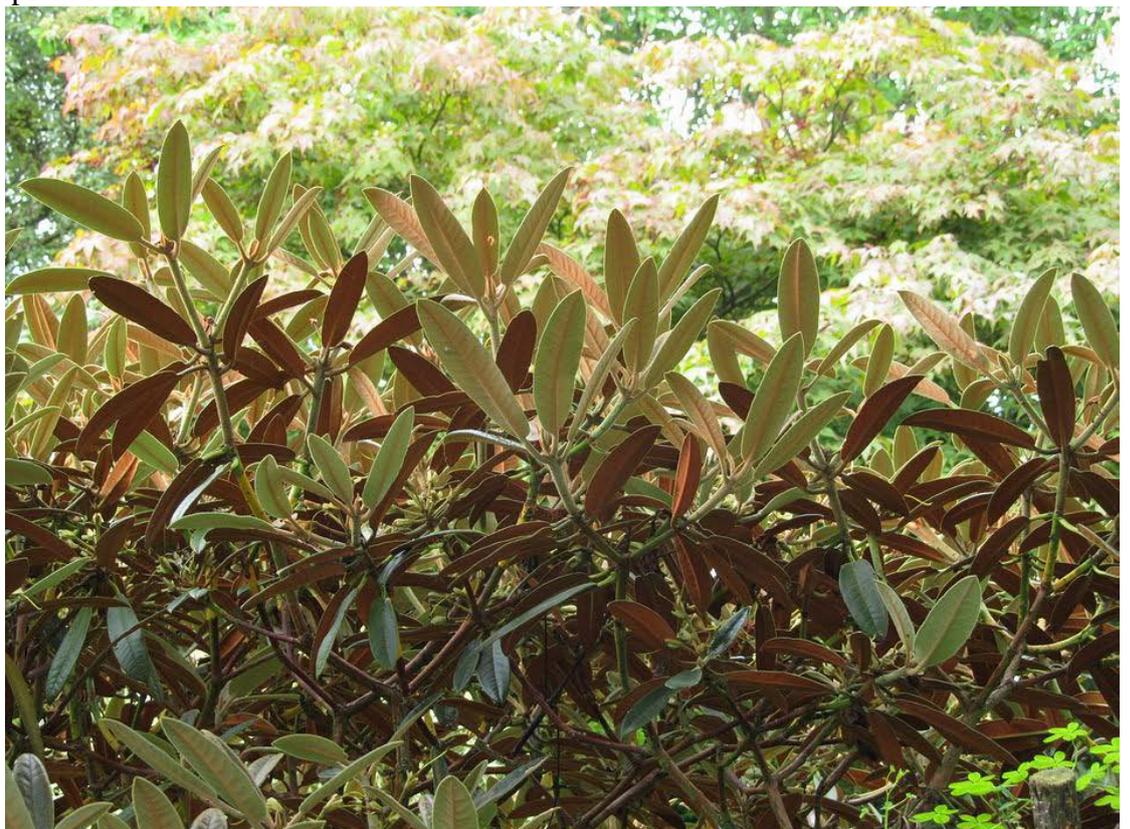
Cyclamen purpurascens





Framed View

It is important to control the views that a visitor to your garden has and this is best done by using shrubs and trees. Some places they completely block the view and attract the eye with their spectacular new foliage as in *Rhododendron elegantulum* (below) and other times they form a dark frame allowing the spectator a glimpse beyond attracting them to explore further.

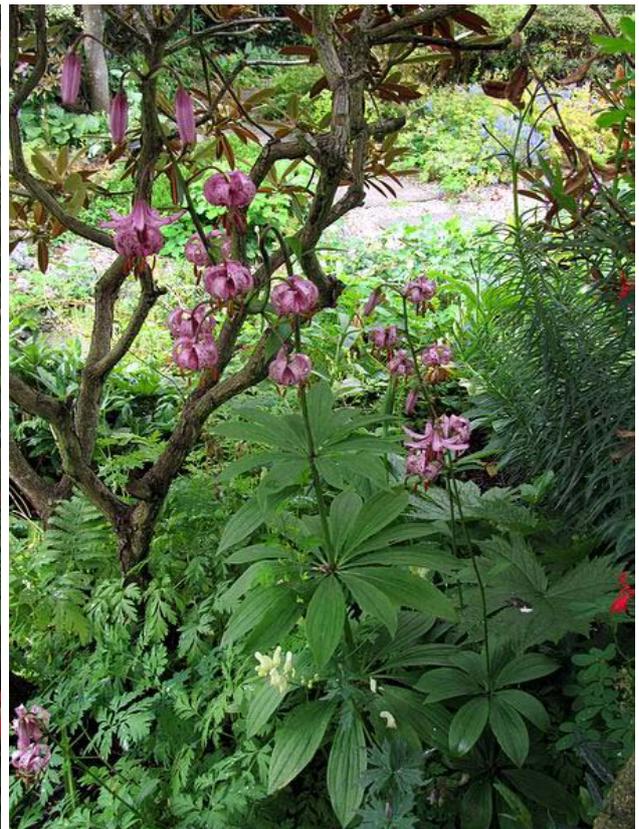


**Rhododendron
elegantulum**



Lilium martagon

Colour, texture and form are all important in compositions whether they be on flat surfaces like the prints above or in three dimensions in the garden. Here the pinky purple form of *Lilium martagon* and the scarlet flowers of *Tropaeolum speciosum* add the colour highlights to draw the eye of the discerning visitor into a scene full of greens and textures, below the *Rhododendrons*.





Sometimes it is the green that dominates so here the textures matter and the lovely soft ferny foliage of this *Corydalis* sp. flops gently in the breeze softening another area in the shade of the larger *Rhododendrons*.



***Corydalis* sp**

I have never managed to work out the name of this *Corydalis* sp. The seed was collected in the Himalaya by Alastair McKelvie many years ago. Its tight racemes of small bright yellow flowers are not such a dominant feature as the lovely soft leaves but they do add those accents of colour. It thrives under the larger *Rhodos* and seeds itself around gently- if allowed.



Green

Sometimes there are no highlights of colour and green is master so it is vital to keep the eye interested by having a variety of form and texture with rounded leaves, jaggy leaves and soft leaves all combining.

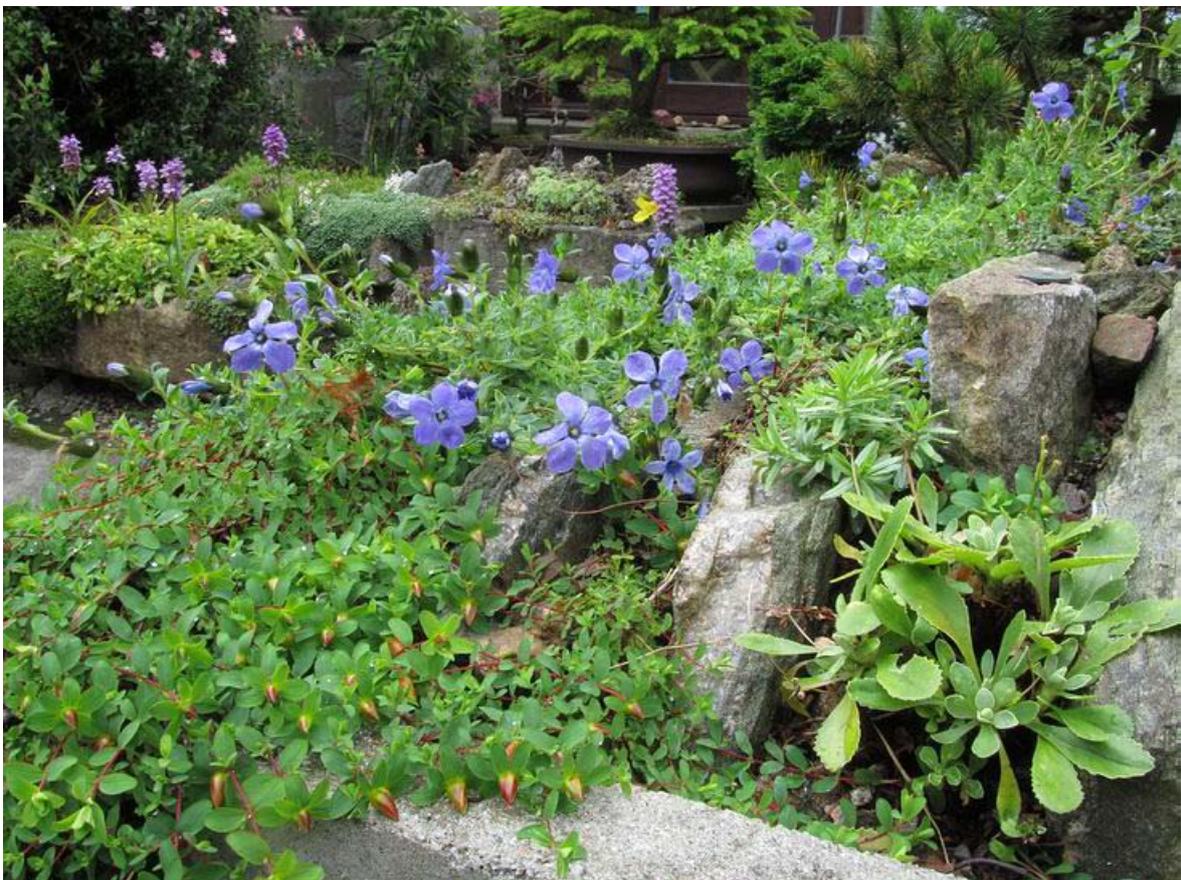


The distant zings of colour are repeated in the raised beds in the foreground to help the eye move around this scene.



Geranium 'Tanya Randall'

The dramatic dark flowers of Geranium 'Tanya Randall' contrast well with the dark bronzy foliage making it a lovely plant for the rock garden, raised bed or larger trough. It's hard to catch the strength of colour.



Cyananthus lobatus

Cyananthus lobatus is a great plant that provides flower from now until the frosts cut it back and send it underground for the winter.

Hypericum reptans

Another rambler that suits the edge of a raised bed and contrasts well with the Cyananthus is Hypericum reptans. It also flowers through what passes for summer in these parts and keeps on going until the winter sets in. Both of these plants can be propagated by cuttings or seed.



Raised beds

You can see the scale and effect of these plants growing and trailing over the edges on the left and right of this raised bed.

Primula capitata

Part of a group of *Primula capitata* planted in an area that we opened up by cutting back some of the Dwarf Rhododendrons that had become too sprawling. The primulas are enjoying the constant moisture as are the Rhododendrons which are producing new growths from the stems that we cut back to almost ground level. One more picture below to finish off this week's bulb log shows more points of colour in a bulb bed.



Zings of colour